

Architectural Style in Kansas

This is the second in a series of architectural style articles that will be published in *Kansas Preservation*. The articles are designed to provide general background information about architectural style and also may be used as context statements for National Register nominations.

The following publications may be helpful for determining and describing style:

Blumenson, John. *Identifying American Architecture* (American Association of State and Local History, Nashville, 1977).

Harris, Cyril. *Dictionary of Architecture and Construction* (McGraw-Hill, New York, 1975).

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses* (Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, 1984).

Poppeliers, John, and S. Allen Chambers. *What Style is It?* (Preservation Press, Washington, DC, 1983).

Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles* (M. I. T. Press, Cambridge, 1969).



The Chi Omega Sorority House (c. 1925) at the University of Kansas campus is an example of the Jacobethan Revival style, exhibiting parapetted, projecting window bays accentuated with quoin-like stones, casement windows, and Tudor arches over the doors and lower level windows. (Photo courtesy of Chi Omega Sorority)

Tudor Revival Reaches Popularity Peak in 1920s

The Tudor Revival style is associated with the building boom Kansas experienced in the mid-1920s. One of the dominant residential movements during this period, Tudor Revival is often used as a composite term to capture a variety of medieval English revival styles. Newly established suburban enclaves featured versions of the English Cotswold Cottage; the edges of college campuses were dotted with Jacobethan Revival sorority houses; and buildings from garden apartments to mansions featured Tudor Revival detailing. While pre-World War I and post-Great Depression examples of the Tudor Revival exist in Kansas, most of the architecture associated with this style was constructed during the 1920s.

Brick veneer with stone trim applied over a wooden frame is the most common building construction employed for this group. A much smaller percentage of Tudor Revival houses employed cement-based stucco applied over frame construction.

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Throughout the state there are examples of post-World War I neighborhoods that were developed using the Tudor Revival style as a defining element. From small cottages to larger homes, the style provided an elegant European inspired motif for home owners of all means. Curvilinear, picturesque subdivisions were uniquely suited to accommodate the Cotswold Cottage and the Jacobethan Manor. Excellent examples of this trend exist in Topeka's Collins Park and Westboro neighborhoods. The Tudor influence was also applied to apartment buildings, such as Stackman Court in Wichita.

Kansas features an array of landmark Tudor Revival properties, including the Chi Omega sorority house (c. 1925) at the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence. Designed by Topeka architect Walter Earl Glover, the building is an example of the Jacobethan Revival style. Incorporating parapetted, projecting window bays accentuated with quoin-like stones, casement windows, and Tudor



(Top) The Mattie Elliot House (1927-1928) in Manhattan is a two-story brick, limestone, and stucco Cotswold Cottage designed by Floyd Wolfenbarger. (Photo courtesy of Riley County Historical Society)



(Above) Stackman Court (1928-1929) in Wichita is a brick eight-unit Tudor style garden apartment designed by Glen Thomas. The apartments were advertised as adding a "bit of old England" to the Riverside area while still providing ultra-modern appointments.



(Left) The Glick-Orr House (1873, 1913) in Atchison is a two-and-a-half-story Tudor Revival style house. Constructed of brick on a stone foundation, the house has had a veneer of half-timbering, stucco, and brick applied for stylistic purposes. The house was substantially altered in 1913 when it was changed from High Victorian Gothic style to Tudor Revival.

Glossary

Castellated - ornamented with battlements or crenelated pattern.

Mullion - vertical member separating window, doors, or panels.

Nogging - filling of brickwork between timber quarters or framework.

Parapet wall - part of a wall rising above the roof.

arches over the doors and lower level windows, the building artfully recalls the Elizabethan era.

In addition to offering a palette for new construction, the Tudor Revival was a style selected for substantial remodelings of older homes. Kansas City based architect Louis Curtiss completely re-vamped Atchison's 1873 Victorian Gothic Glick-Orr House with a Tudor Revival facade in 1913. The overall form of the house was maintained, with the steeply sloped roof on the entry tower being

replaced with a castellated parapet. Stucco, half-timbering, and multi-paned diamond-shaped windows were key additive features that helped to transform former Governor Glick's residence into

his son-in-law's castle.

Although noted for its distinctive and unique architect designed buildings, the Tudor Revival style offered design elements that were incorporated into mail order design books. Using an eclectic mix of features, homes could achieve the semblance of the Tudor Revival. Half-

timbering, white nogging, diamond mullions, decorated chimney pots, or a simulated thatched roof added decoration and an element of the Tudor Revival style to mail-order bungalows and foursquares. The picturesque style remained popular in this country until the second world war. During its period of dominance it was only rivaled by the Colonial Revival style.

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